

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

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R 191340Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9335

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8105

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SK, IN

SUBJ: SIKKIM CHIEF MINISTER VISITS DELHI

1. SIKKIM CHIEF MIN ETER KAZI LLENDUP DORJI MET WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI, FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN AND INDIAN PLANNING COMMISSION OFFICIALS, AMONG OTHERS, DURING A VISIT TO NEW DELHI JUNE 10-13. HARD INFORMATION ON THE KAZI'S TALKS HERE IS SCANT BUT PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE HE APPRISED MRS. GANDHI OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND OBTAINED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION IT S AGREEMENT TO TREAT SIKKIM AS INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD, ENTITLING IT TO CERTAIN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

2. EN ROUTE TO DELHI ON JUNE 10 THE KAZI TOLD REPORTERS IN CALCUTTA THAT A DECISION ABOUT THE CHOGYAL'S FUTURE WOULD BE TAKEN SOON. "HE IS FINISHED AND IS NOW AS GOOD AS ANY OTHER CITIZEN IN SIKKIM," THE KAZI WWS QUOTED SAYING. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE KAZI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS NO DEMAND AS YET FROM THE SIKKIMESE PEOPL TO KEEP THE CHOGYAL OUT OF SIKKIM. ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO GANGTOK JUNE 14,
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THE KAZI HAD A SECOND SESSION WITHTHE PRESS WHERE HE SAID

HE HAD TOLD THE GOI HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE A PENSION TO THE CHOGYAL. ACCORDING TO THE KAZI, THE GOI WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ABOUT THE GRANT OF A PENSION. THE KAZI ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD CALCUTTA NEWSMEN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE OVER THE 12,000 TO 16,000 HECTARES OF FOREST-LAND OWNED BY THE CHOGYAL. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE CHOGYAL'S PALACE HAD BEEN "CONSTRUCTED WITH PUBLIC MONEY" BUT SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH REGARD TO IT.

3. THE DIRECTOR OF THE MEA NORTHERN DIVISION ACKNOWLEDGED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER JUNE 18 THAT THERE WAS A GENUINE LONG-TERM PROBLEM ABOUT THE CHOGYAL'S LAND, WHICH HE SAID CONSTITUTED SOME TWENTY PER CENT OF THE CULTIVABLE AREA IN SIKKIM. THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM AND REPEAT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WOULD HAVE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. WHAT THAT SOLUTION WOULD BE HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SAY, BUT HE POINTEDLY NOTED THAT THE CHOGYAL HAS SUBSTANTIAL ASSETS BESIDES LAND. THE MEA OFFICIAL ASSURED US, AS HE HAS IN PAST CONVERSATIONS, THAT THE CHOGYAL WAS WELL, AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY PHYSICAL THREAT TO HIM. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE CHOGYAL CHOSE TO STAY IN THE PALACE MOST OF THE TIME, HE WAS FREE TO VENTURE OUTSIDE AND HAD RECENTLY ATTENDED A SOCIAL EVENT AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, WHO HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF THE CHOGYAL'S BITTER CRITICISM WHEN A FEW WEEKS BEFORE HE WAS CHIEF EXECUTIVE. SCHNEIDER

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